

Approved Minutes
Friend of the Court Bureau
Advisory Committee Meeting
State Court Administrative Office, Lansing, MI
Thursday, February 8, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Howard, Peter Dever, Shawn Perry, Anthony Paruk, Karyn Ferrick, Kathryne O'Grady, Numa Cabrera, Suzanne Hoseth and Lynn Bullard

MEMBERS ABSENT: Erin House and Amy Hartmann

STAFF PRESENT: Daniel Wright, Kelly Howard and Angel Sorrells

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:50 p.m.

2. Administrative Matters

- a. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson - A motion was made to nominate Doug Howard as Chair of the Advisory Committee. Motion passed unanimously. A motion was made to nominate Shawn Perry as Vice Chairperson of the Advisory Committee. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. 2007 Meeting Schedule – Shawn made a motion that the committee meets quarterly, and that those meetings be: April 27, July 27, and October 26. If an occasion arises that for some reason those meetings have to be moved, that the meetings still occur within that order. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

A copy of the by-laws will be provided to the committee members.

- c. Meeting Process – Dan discussed with the committee that it was important for the Bureau to have an opportunity to give the committee a complete rundown of everything that's happening, and that was not something that was able to be done at the open meeting of the committee.

In January 2005, Dan started a process by which the Friend of the Court Bureau, now the Family Services Division held a staff meeting and invited the committee as special guests to attend that meeting and to be briefed on all the current issues that were facing the division. After that meeting was completed, the committee came downstairs and had its statutory open meeting that's envisioned in the friend of the court act. Does the committee want to continue the procedure that was set in place, that there is a private meeting of the Family Services Division on the day on the morning of scheduled committee meetings? That meeting is a meeting is a meeting of the division that which the committee is invited guests, and then after that is a

public meeting of the committee at which members of the public and anyone else that wants to attend is there to address the committee and raise issues that may be of concern to the committee.

The meetings of the Advisory committee will be posted on the Friend of the Court Bureau Advisory Committee website.

- d. Approval of October 12, 2006 Minutes - A correction to Kathryn O'Grady's title should be, Director of Policy and Resource Development, Wayne County Department of Children and Family Services. A quorum was not established at the meeting. A motion was made to accept the Minutes as amended.

3. Public Comment

- i. Jules Hanslovsky commented that he is in attendance on behalf of the State Bar Family Law Section. He is on the Family Law Council, and they have a great interest in the Federal Deficit Reduction Act. They are also interested in the child support legislation.

4. Correspondence

All correspondence sent to the Committee is kept confidential. In the future, all correspondence will be discussed at the meeting with Family Services.

- a. Robert Long – He discusses that his son has medical conditions and he is upset that his local FOC is not following up on this. A customer service clerk responded to the litigant. The Committee agreed with the response.

5. New Business

Shawn made a motion that the Committee request that the Bureau to write a letter to the CSPER group on the Committee's behalf, thanking all the members that served on the Group for the CSPER report and the effort they put into producing the report and encouraging the decision makers at DHS, the House and the Majority and Minority leader, Senate Majority and Minority leader, and the Governor's office to adopt the CSPER report in recognition of the urgency. Motion seconded by Peter. Discussion: Tony commented that he does not agree with all the recommendations in the report. He does agree with a vast majority of them, and the people responsible of the report deserve recognition for their time and effort. In the report, it clearly indicates that in comparing Michigan to other states, we have less people doing more and collecting more than any other state that we were compared with. The child support program in Michigan has been tapped from a human resource standpoint. Shawn discussed the dire straits that the Ingham county FOC office is currently going through due to budget constraints. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee would like to review the State Parenting Time Model Guideline Handbook and determine if there are any modifications or updates needed. The Committee requests a budget update at future meetings.

6. Closing

- a. Members Closing Comments – None.
- b. Final Public Comment – Jules Hanslovsky commends the Advisory Committee members for taking the time to serve to help the parents and the families.
- c. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m. The next meeting is July 27, 2007 at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darla Brandon
Family Services